

**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES****News Release****LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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**DLNR Lifts Fire Closure of Waianae Range  
Forest Reserves and Game Management Areas**

WAI'ANAE — Effective Monday, October 20, 2003, the fire closure affecting all state forest reserves and public hunting areas (Kuaokala, Mokuleia, Makua-Keaau, Wai'anae-Kai, and Nanakuli) and the Kuaokala Game Management Area is lifted.

Lifting the fire closure is made possible by recent tradewind showers and seasonal changes that have moderated drought conditions in mauka regions.

"We appreciate the public's understanding, cooperation, and support during the five-week closure," said Peter Young, DLNR Chairperson. "Although public use is returned to normal, everyone is reminded to malama Hawai'i, and exercise good conservation practices while in our forests."

"The health of our forest watersheds is of vital importance to our State's environment, culture, and economy," said Young.

Extremely dry chronic conditions in the Waianae mountain range this summer led Department of Land and Natural Resources to close all state forest reserves and public hunting areas at Kuaokala, Mokuleia, Makua Keaau, Wai'anae Kai, and Nanakuli, and the Kuaokala Game Management Area, as of September 15, 2003. The closure was under authority of Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 185, Land Fire Protection Law.

Brush fires this summer affected 3,200 acres within the Waianae Mountain Range, at Keawaula, Mokuleia, Kaena Point, Kuaokala. A fire in the Waianae-Kai forest reserve demonstrated extreme fire behavior never before witnessed in a remote area of the watershed. These incidents reinforced the need for a fire closure until sufficient and sustained rainfall occurs and recovery of the vegetation has taken place."

For more information, contact the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, O'ahu Branch, at 973-9778.

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